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SOVIET NOTE OF APRIL 21, 1959 TO THE US GOVERNMENT
ON MODERNIZATION OF ARMAMENTS OF US ALLIES

WFE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the instruction of the Soviet Government considers it necessary to draw the attention of the Government of the United States of America to the following.

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Efforts which have been undertaken in the course of a prolonged period by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as well as by the governments of a number of other states have led to the achievement by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, England and France of an agreement to proceed toward a solution of urgent international questions by means of negotiations. Great hopes are being placed in the whole world on the Conference of Foreign Ministers opening 11 May in Geneva and on the conference to follow of Heads of Governments. The Soviet Government belongs among those who sincerely want these conferences to be crowned by the liquidation of the cold war and to open the way for healthy inter-relations and peaceful cooperation of states. It will not be an exaggeration to note that the agreement of the states of East and West to meet at the negotiating table with the aim of settling acute international problems is the most significant, positive result of the development of international relations in recent years.

It is clear that now, on the eve of negotiations, their participants as well as governments of other states interested in a favorable outcome of these negotiations ought to consider it their duty to do everything dependent on them in order to facilitate the strengthening of confidence and mutual understanding, to ease the search for mutually acceptable solutions and above all to refrain from actions which could complicate the international situation and prevent the success of the conferences.

YD

Nevertheless reports have appeared in the press of Western countries recently that the Government of the United States of America is undertaking measures in order to push the nuclear and rocket armament of certain state-participants of the North Atlantic bloc, to speed up the implementation of plans for stationing its rocket bases on the territories of these countries. Following Italy, which has just concluded with the United States of America an agreement about the stationing on its territory of American rocket sites, the conclusion of analogous agreements with the Governments of Greece, Turkey, Federal Republic of Germany and certain other countries is now being prepared.

It is beyond any doubt that the creation of American rocket bases in Greece would cause a sharp worsening of the situation in the Balkan peninsula and in the south of Europe and the atomic armament of Turkey, which besides that is included in the Baghdad Pact, would lead to a serious increase of the military danger in the Near and Middle East which is even without this a region extremely subject to shocks.

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As for the Federal Republic of Germany, the Soviet Government has already repeatedly drawn the attention of the Governments of the United States of America, England and France as well as the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany itself to the extremely serious and dangerous consequences to the cause of peace to which the atomic armament of Western Germany would inevitably lead.

At the same time the Soviet Government considers it necessary especially to point out that by expanding preparations for atomic war on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and by aiding in the equipment of the Bundeswehr with nuclear and rocket armament, the Government of the United States of America is violating the conditions worked out by the Allied Powers after the route of Hitlerite Germany at the time of its capitulation and accepted by the German representatives, which prohibited the armament and militarization of Germany which was a guarantee of future peace and security. Therefore the Soviet Government considers measures for the atomic armament of the Federal Republic of Germany as illegal and protests against them. The Soviet Government retains for itself the right, as a party which fought against Hitlerite Germany and signed the document of military capitulation and the declaration about the defeat of Germany, to draw the appropriate conclusions for itself in relation to Western Germany.

At the present moment, when the Governments of the United States of America, England and France and also the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, have expressed agreement to discuss in forthcoming negotiations the question about a peace treaty with Germany, it would be impossible to evaluate measures for the atomic armament of the Federal Republic of Germany otherwise than as an attempt beforehand to torpedo these negotiations. It is impossible not to come to the conclusion that the measures being prepared for the atomic armament with nuclear and rocket weapons of the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Turkey, and certain other state-participants of the North Atlantic bloc and the plans for the stationing on the territories of these countries of American sites for launching rockets are in contradiction with those tasks which stand before the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Summit Conference.

The question arises whether an attempt is not here being made to confront the forthcoming conferences with accomplished facts in order to bring to naught the possibilities of achieving agreements, if not in general to undermine the very understanding about negotiations between East and West.

It goes without saying that all responsibility for the consequences of this would fall on the Government of the United States of America and the governments of those allies of the United States of America in NATO who are so little concerned with facilitating the success of the forthcoming negotiations.

The Government.

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The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has regarded with understanding the statements which the Ambassadors of the United States of America, England and France in Moscow made on March 26 of this year to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, namely, that in the opinion of the three above governments unilateral actions of any government in the period of preparation for the forthcoming conferences will hardly facilitate their successful outcome. The Soviet Government therefore would have a right to expect that the Government of the United States of America as well as the Governments of the other Western Powers will also themselves act in the same manner and not be limited by the expression to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of such hopes.

In connection with the above the Soviet Government expresses the hope that the Government of the United States of America will regard with all seriousness the considerations expressed in the current note.

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